

Protecting Seattle's Historic Resources

Columbia City Green



Colman School



M.V. Malibu



Horiuchi Mural



Ben Bridge Clock



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Historic Resources: preserving what make us unique

a message from the director of the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods



Think of historic cities, and visions of places in England, Egypt, Greece, and China, to name a few, immediately come to mind. Seattle is considered a young city in comparison to the great historic cities of Europe, Africa, and Asia, yet we have our own history too. We have learned of the value of those historic buildings – in character

and economy – Seattle's history is important to preserve for now and for the future. You hear and see our history in photos, local stories, many buildings and sites in our neighborhoods, and in the excitement of visitors.

As a City, Seattle has a history of recognizing and protecting our historic resources beginning in the early '70s with the preservation of Pioneer Square, the Citizen's Initiative to Save the Pike Place Market and the adoption of our Landmarks Preservation ordinance. Protecting our historic resources is important to our quality of life - to give us a sense of place, to reflect on Seattle's past and to preserve our neighborhoods' character.

Presently, we have seven historic districts that you will read more about in this issue of Neighborhood News. But there are many more neighborhoods not formally designated that have retained and maintained their special character over the years. In the last eight years, we began an ambitious project to survey and inventory each neighborhood in Seattle, and to date, we have done so for 13 of them. Our team also completed inventories citywide for neighborhood commercial structure and residential properties built prior to 1906. You can view these properties on our website at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/historicresources.htm.

And right now I'm excited about our efforts in South Seattle to document its rich cultural and architectural history that is home to so many different communities. We are working with a number of organizations – El Centro de la Raza, the Northwest African American Museum, the Wing Luke Asian Museum and the Washington State Jewish Historical Society – to document the role of their communities in South Seattle and share it with the rest of the City. South Seattle has been home to a number of immigrant and refugee groups, most prominently our Italian-American community whose story we will also tell as a result of our outreach and research.

I know you'll enjoy reading about our Historic Preservation program, along with segments from several citizens who have been working to preserve the uniqueness of their neighborhoods. And I want to recognize the wonderful volunteer work of our citizens serving on the Landmarks Preservation Board and the seven historic district boards. Their involvement and expertise have been so important to protecting this city's heritage. Thank you.

Stella Chao

Director, Department of Neighborhoods

2009-10 Mayor's Youth Council is back in action

By Jenny Frankl, Mayor's Youth Council Program Coordinator

Housed in the Department of Neighborhoods for the second consecutive year, the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) will continue to create an opportunity for Seattle's youth to get civically engaged! The 26 young people who make up the 2009-10 Mayor's Youth Council represent diverse communities from all corners of Seattle. This year they look forward to amplifying the voice of Seattle's young people and developing solutions to the ever-growing needs of the youth community. We gladly welcome back six second-year members and one three-year member who will serve as our MYC Intern.

The council will hold a series of youth community meetings in December, so start getting ready!! And as of January, watch for us under our new name, Seattle Youth Commission.



Mayor Nickels, City Councilmember Tim Burgess and the Youth Council

Around the neighborhood

South Park Information Center holds open house

By Steve Louie, Greater Duwamish Neighborhood District Coordinator

With an award from Department of Neighborhood's Outreach Fund, the South Park Information Center held an open house in October to showcase some of the services available and share the South Park Action Agenda's accomplishments (learn more at www.seattle.gov/mayor/issues/southpark/). Over 100 community members, including City and State Representatives were in attendance. The South Park Information Center continues to grow and provide direct services to this diverse community. These services include environmental education for homes and businesses, employment assistance, English as a second language classes, translation services, child care and connections with programs and services in Seattle and King County.



Connecting with the candidates

By Christa Dumpys, Queen Anne/Magnolia Neighborhood District Coordinator

Elections are one way that people connect with their government. They have the power to vote for who will step into leadership and represent their interests, so it is important that the voters be informed. Neighborhoods' District Coordinators Rob Mattson for the Ballard District and I for the Queen Anne/Magnolia District helped initiate and support the coordination of a City Council and Mayoral candidates forum alongside leadership from both district councils. Over 120 attended the forum at Ballard High School which was moderated by CR Douglas from Seattle Channel.

Not only was this event a very positive experience for the planning committee working together across districts, but it increased the visibility of the district councils. Lastly, the forum was a chance for the community to highlight issues of most concern in the nearby neighborhoods. As Susan Casey, chair of the Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council said, "It gave the community a better chance to see what the candidates are like up close."



P-Patchers share food and stories at 36th Annual Harvest Banquet

By Rich Macdonald, P-Patch Supervisor

A perfect harvest night graced the 36th Annual P-Patch Harvest Banquet. More than 90 gardeners turned out to share the bounty of their late summer P-Patches. Photobooks, story books and digital slide shows told the stories of many of the gardens, while the program highlighted P-Patchers ability to give back. In 2008, gardeners donated more than 25,000 pounds of fresh organic produce to food banks and hot meal programs around the city. Gardeners described the warmth and eagerness of food bank recipients for the beautiful produce donated by gardeners. Department Director Stella Chao thanked gardeners for their contributions and commitment to making Seattle a better place. Amongst themselves, gardeners talked about this growing season as one of the best on record. Too bad it is ending, but everyone is already dreaming of next year.

Matching Fund awardees honored at celebration



By SuJ'n Chon, Manager, Neighborhood Matching Fund and P-Patch Community Gardening Program

The rains held back and the sun came out allowing for a joyous 2009 Neighborhood Matching Fund Large Project Awards celebration on August 29. Mayor Greg Nickels and Neighborhoods' Director Stella Chao honored nineteen community organizations who received matching fund awards totaling \$1,359,587. Nearly 100 attendees enjoyed socializing and a luncheon, as well as receiving their award certificates. Thank you to the North Seattle Boys and Girls Club for providing the venue.

To view a list of the 2009 awardees and their projects, go to www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/2009LPFAwardsList.pdf.



Save the date for workshops and deadlines for Neighborhood Matching Fund

By Laurie Ames, Neighborhood Matching Fund Project Manager

Whether your neighborhood project needs \$100 or \$100,000, the Neighborhood Matching Fund provides money and technical assistance to support your community efforts. The next chance to apply to the Small and Simple Projects Fund is January 11, 2010. Letters of Intent for the Large Projects Fund are due February 8, 2010 followed by an application in April.

Department of Neighborhoods staff will be hosting several technical assistance workshops to help you develop your project idea and write a competitive application. The workshop schedule is as follows:

2009

Tuesday, November 17, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Ballard Library, 5614 22nd Ave NW

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Beacon Hill Library, 2821 Beacon Ave S

Tuesday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Douglass Truth Library, 2300 E Yesler Way

Saturday, December 5, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.,

Rainier Valley Cultural Center, 3515 S Alaska St

2010

Thursday, January 7, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Lake City Library, 12501 28th Ave NE

Tuesday, January 12, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N

Thursday, January 21, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, 4408 Delridge Way SW

Visit our website for more information on the Neighborhood Matching Fund: www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/ or call us at 206-684-0464.

Historic Preservation Program: Communities work to preserve our heritage

By Sarah Sodt, Coordinator of the Landmarks Preservation Board

In the early '70s, the City adopted the Landmarks Preservation Ordinance to safeguard properties of historic and architectural significance around Seattle. This act led to the creation of the City's Historic Preservation Program, which is responsible for the designation and protection of nearly 400 historic structures, sites, objects and vessels, as well as seven historic districts scattered throughout Seattle.

Located at Ballard Avenue, Columbia City, Fort Lawton, Harvard-Belmont, International District, Pike Place Market and Pioneer Square, each of the seven historic districts has a volunteer neighborhood board, commission or committee that reviews proposed changes to properties within the districts' boundaries (see www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/historic_districts.htm).

For individually designated landmarks, the Landmarks Preservation Board provides oversight. When property owners, business owners, and residents want to make changes to their buildings, program staff helps them with the application process. Staff also assists citizens with the nomination application process for proposed new landmarks and administers the incentives available to landmark property owners, including zoning and building code relief, transfer of development rights, and special tax valuation.

So how does a building get landmark status?

Sarah Sodt, Coordinator of the Landmarks Preservation Board

With nearly 400 landmarks in Seattle, you might ask how a building, site or object is "landmarked." As outlined in a City ordinance, it is a four-step process that begins with a *nomination* application. This application requests information on the property's history, its physical description, its context within a neighborhood and any special significance of the property (for example, designed by a well-known architect or owned by a historical figure). The application is given to our Historic Preservation Program staff who provides technical assistance and outreach to property owners and community members. Once the staff deems the nomination complete, it is then considered by the Landmarks Preservation Board (see article on page 6) at a public meeting. The Board may reject it, ask more questions of the nominator or approve the nomination.

If approved, another public meeting is held to consider *designation*. In order for a property to be designated, it must be at least 25-years-old, meet at least one of six designation criteria and have the physical ability to convey its significance.

If the Board approves the designation of a property, an agreement called *Controls and Incentives* is negotiated between our staff and the property owner. This agreement describes the features to be preserved and the approval process for making changes. It also outlines incentives (such as special tax valuation) that are available.

Once this agreement is approved by the Board, a *designating ordinance* is forwarded to Seattle City Council for approval. Once it is approved, the property becomes an official landmark! For more detailed information on the process and to find the nomination application form and the six design criteria, please see http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/designation_process.htm.



Pantages House



The Landmarks Preservation Board

Almost 400 buildings, sites and objects have become designated City landmarks since the creation of the Landmarks Preservation Board in 1973. Appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Seattle City Council, the Board is composed of two architects, two architectural historians, a structural engineer, real estate management professional, finance professional, three at-large members, a member of the City's Planning Commission, and a youth member. Current members of this all-volunteer board represent a broad spectrum of the city geographically.

The work of the Board is to review landmark nominations and review Certificate of Approval applications, which are applications to make alterations to designated features of City Landmarks. A subcommittee of the Board, the Architectural Review Committee, reviews Certificate of Approval applications in advance of the full Board so that applicants can receive preliminary feedback.

In addition to overseeing individually designated City Landmarks, the Board also reviews Certificates of Approval for three of the historic districts, each of which has its own neighborhood review committee.

Property owners share their stories about recently-designated City Landmarks:

The Shuey House

When we first discovered The Shuey House, it was a run-down rooming house filled with students. Though originally built as a single-family home for Henry Owen Shuey and his family, it was converted several years later into a boarding house and became neglected over the years. Underneath false walls and layers of linoleum and paint sat a beautiful home just waiting to be restored. We were fortunate in that most of the original wood paneling and moldings had been kept intact; however, it took a lot of time and expense to bring it back to its grandeur. Making The Shuey House a Seattle City Landmark assures us

that our efforts in restoration won't be un-done years later. It will remain the stately and grand home it was originally built to be.

--Steven and Rebecca Schellings, owners



The Shuey House

Washington Athletic Club

The Washington Athletic Club will celebrate our 80th year of operation beginning December of 2009. Our mission of service to our members, guests and the community remains the same as it was in 1930. In many cases, three generations of WAC families have used WAC facilities and services for each stage of their life. The optimum delivery of these services necessitates the continuous improvement of the interior of the building. The WAC building exterior is a constant symbol of this consistency and reliability to our members, guests and the community. Being designated a historical landmark assures this symbol will remain intact for generations to come.

--Jim Johnson, Washington Athletic Club President



The Washington Athletic Club

Property owners stories *continued*

Phinney Neighborhood Center

The Phinney Neighborhood Center site, formerly the John B. Allen Elementary School, sits high on the peak of Phinney Ridge. The buildings have served our community from the turn of the twentieth century (1904 and 1918) through 1981 as schools, and for the past 30 years as multi-purpose facilities for the surrounding community. This site and its buildings are the heart of the neighborhood; community begins here and has done so for over 100 years.

The exterior and interior of each building have been well preserved or restored to original condition. Many people entering these buildings have instant recollections of their childhood school days. The old wood, worn stairs, even the smell of the buildings bring pleasure and evoke strong emotions to those visiting the site. The thought that this property, its old buildings and grounds, current uses and past memories could have been eliminated and replaced with new development brings chills up my spine. There was no choice, as good stewards of our community, and our civic duty, but to have the site and its buildings preserved as a Historic Landmark.

The neighborhood will change around us, but there will be one place that continues to provide a sense of stability and history, a focus from which to build community—the Phinney Neighborhood Center.

--Ed Medeiros, Phinney Neighborhood Association Executive Director

John B. Allen Elementary School



Photos courtesy of the Phinney Neighborhood Center

Phinney Neighborhood Center

Sensitive renovations in the Ballard Avenue Landmark District attract new vibrant uses

Heather McAuliffe, Ballard Avenue Landmark District Board Coordinator

In October 2008, Seattle restaurateurs James Weimann and Deming MacLise bought two buildings on Ballard's old Main Street at 5307 and 5313 Ballard Avenue NW. The buildings formerly housed a machine shop and a cabinet manufacturing business and had not been renovated in nearly 40 years. The new owners seismically upgraded both buildings, restored architectural details and added new storefronts and an outdoor deck to adapt the buildings for new uses. The owners used 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) photos and evidence of original historic fabric at the buildings for guidance in restoring the buildings. Today, 5307 Ballard looks much as it did in the 1937 photo, and 5313 Ballard has been carefully renovated to maintain its character and work more effectively for retail use.

Good renovations are good for business: the Bastille Café & Bar opened in June at 5307 Ballard Ave NW, and Fresh Flours bakery opens late fall at 5313 Ballard Ave NW.



5307 & 5313 Ballard Ave NW (1937)



5307 & 5313 Ballard Ave NW (2009)

Historic Preservation Program *continued*

Historic Resources Survey and Inventory

By Sarah Sodt, Coordinator of the Landmarks Preservation Board

A survey and inventory of historic landmarks is an important historic preservation planning tool that involves the identification and evaluation of potentially historic buildings, objects and sites. Each is evaluated on age, physical integrity, architectural style, as well as historic significance (to view the database, visit web1.seattle.gov/dpd/historicalsites/). Municipalities use surveys and inventories to meet local, state and federal environmental review requirements, but they can also be used to proactively identify and minimize conflicts between development and historic preservation goals.

In 2001, the University District Arts and Heritage Committee received a Neighborhood Matching Fund award to survey and inventory the University District neighborhood (see University District "Gems" article). Neighborhood volunteers photographed buildings and conducted research, which included pouring over old photos, maps, phone directories, and permits.

The University District project was so successful that several important buildings were included in the inventory subsequently nominated by their owners for landmark designation (see The Shuey House article). It also inspired another neighborhood, Queen Anne, to conduct its own survey and inventory. The third and most recent survey funded in part by the Neighborhood Matching Fund is currently being conducted by and for the Fremont neighborhood.

If you are interested in utilizing the Neighborhood Matching Fund grant program for historic preservation projects, including surveys and inventories, contact Sarah Sodt at (206) 615-1786 or sarah.sodt@seattle.gov.



We asked community members to share their thoughts about the survey and inventory process. Here are their stories:

Queen Anne Historical Society Historic Resources Survey

In 2002, the Queen Anne Historical Society applied for and received a grant from the Neighborhood Matching Fund to complete a survey and inventory historic resources on Queen Anne Hill. The scope of the project included all houses in the district built prior to 1963. It was a large undertaking, which was enthusiastically tackled by a team of community volunteers guided by professional architectural historian and preservation consultant, Mimi Sheridan.

By the time the survey portion of the project was completed in 2004, many miles had been logged with numerous photos taken and survey sheets completed. In addition, some of the volunteers assisted Mimi in completing historic research for houses determined to be significant for the inventory portion of the project.

For me, the most important aspects of the project are:

IT WAS FUN *Trustee Kim Turner stated in the March 2004 issue of the Society's newsletter, "One of the nicest things about doing the surveys has been the meetings with home owners, several of whom have welcomed us as visitors and have shown us the interiors of their homes."*

IT WAS EDUCATIONAL *We received survey training from Mimi and the resulting fieldwork offered us the opportunity to look at our neighborhood from a fresh perspective. In addition, those of us who assisted with the research for inventoried homes gained valuable skills for future applications.*

IT WAS PRODUCTIVE *We are really proud of the results of the survey. I remember the first time I logged on to the Department of Neighborhoods website and saw photos that I had taken and house histories completed by Mimi available for easy access. Even my own 1905 house was included with its Craftsman architectural details and history detailed!*

IT IS USEFUL *Our society has a very active Landmarks Preservation committee. The Department of Neighborhoods database of historic properties is the first place we look when contacted regarding any preservation concerns. It is a great help in preparing Society presentations and walking tours. Sadly, some of the houses which were inventoried have subsequently been lost to development. Fortunately, their histories will live on in the database!*

--Leanne Olson, Queen Anne Historical Society volunteer

Community members stories *continued*

University District “Gems”

Members of the University District Arts and Heritage Committee were elated to learn about the City’s proposal to document significant neighborhood historical and architectural resources. Our group, as part of the neighborhood planning process, had become intensely interested in the people and the buildings that formed our community character and were eager to know more. In 2001, we were the first to sign on to conduct a survey, an ambitious job for folks who couldn’t tell Craftsman from Tudor Revival.

The survey operation was set for February 2002, the coldest February in memory. But we had a real sense of purpose as we sloshed through the streets with soaked check lists and numb feet and fingers. First, we were laying a foundation to preserve the best loved features of our community identity. Second, folks had rallied to our team, happy to be part of a proactive project, not another fight against a rezone. Finally, pride and excitement in our history grew as we learned more about the people and the lives they’d lived in both the modest and impressive buildings we’d learned to really “see.”

When the survey was complete, we compiled a list of “gems” recommended for landmark status and noted many more buildings and groups of buildings of significance. But the project also left its own legacy and forwarded community goals by giving us the momentum to tackle much bigger projects and an imperative to share our history with everyone in the community and in the city.

With the know-how, resources and leadership that grew out of the survey, we launched the Museum Without Walls project and this spring mounted the hugely successful, prize-winning exhibit “Open to Question.” The exhibit documents the District’s leadership in the struggle for social justice during the ‘60s and ‘70s and has brought new generations into awareness of what it means to be part of our “neighborhood.” We’ve found that historic preservation takes unexpected forms.

--Patricia Whistler,
resident



Maple Leaf Community

My fellow Maple Leaf neighbors and I spent several hundred hours on a landmark nomination of historic Waldo Hospital, a fixture in our neighborhood since 1924. Our effort was a response to a landmark nomination submitted by a developer who wanted to tear down the building. The process was frustrating and rewarding, but would have been made easier if our neighborhood had previously undertaken a historic survey.

The process was frustrating because we had a very limited time to do research into the entire history of a building standing in our neighborhood for seven decades. We had to quickly understand the architecture, the amazing life of Dr. William Waldo, the history of osteopathy, and the role the building played in the growth of Bastyr University and our area’s rich naturopathic tradition.

The process was rewarding, because we learned all these things, in particular what an amazing man “Dr. Bill” was to our community. He was a medical education visionary and doctor to UW football and local high school athletes. He really was an inspiration.

The process would have been easier if our neighborhood had previously undertaken a historic survey. These surveys, which often use Neighborhood Matching Fund dollars to bring historic experts to a neighborhood, identify potential historic buildings. Once the potential buildings are identified, historical research can be done at a more leisurely pace.

We’ve committed as a city to reducing waste and reusing all manner of items – except we haven’t fully embraced the idea of “re-using” our historic buildings. Surveys, enabled by Matching Fund dollars, can help us preserve our historic legacy, reduce landfill waste, and protect our environment from the other harmful effects generated by demolition.

Waldo Hospital was ultimately saved earlier this year, some three years after our community started working on the project. It will become a school, returning it to the purpose for which it was built in 1924. That’s a happy ending we might have reached a few years earlier with a historic survey in place.

-- David Miller, resident

Communities involved in neighborhood planning

By Thomas Whittemore, Neighborhood Planning Outreach Specialist

With just a glance around the room, you could sense the level of participation. Southeast Seattle community members, stakeholders, and City staff participated in Neighborhood Plan Updates Open Houses in late September. Yellow post-it notes filled with comments covered wall space around display boards; interpreters gave docent-style tours providing an opportunity for all to engage. The Department of Planning and Development showed pictorials of different options for density surrounding the Link Light rail stations at Beacon, Mt Baker and MLK@ Holly Street (Othello). Conceptual plan options as well as updated goals and strategies were provided.



In November, other communities that participated in the late 1990s as part of Seattle's growth management plan efforts will engage in a parallel process for Neighborhood Status Reports. In this second series of Status Report Open Houses, community members will discuss themes that have emerged in earlier open houses. They will highlight the issues of most concern, review current drafts, and discuss the means by which communities and the City can stay engaged in the implementation of Neighborhood Plans.

Upcoming Neighborhood Status Reports Open Houses

All meetings at 6-8 pm.

Thursday, November 5

Mercer Middle School,
1600 S. Columbian Way

- Admiral
- West Seattle Junction
- Delridge
- Georgetown
- Morgan Junction
- Westwood-Highland Park
- Columbia City/Hillman City/Genesee
- Rainier Beach

Tuesday, November 10

Seattle Central Community College,
1701 Broadway

- Queen Anne/Uptown
- Belltown
- Pike/Pine
- First Hill
- Eastlake
- Capitol Hill
- Central Area

Thursday, November 12

North Seattle Community College,
9600 College Way N

- Broadview/Bitter Lake
- Haller Lake
- Aurora/Licton Springs
- Crown Hill/Ballard
- Greenwood/Phinney Ridge
- Wallingford
- Fremont
- Green Lake
- Lake City
- University District

More information on Status Reports and Neighborhood Planning can be found at:
http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/Planning/Neighborhood_Planning/Overview/
or call David Goldberg at (206) 615-1447.

Convenient election ballot drop off at select Neighborhood Service Centers

By Margaret Ceseña, Manager of NPIS

Did you know you can deposit your general election ballot at one of the six convenient Neighborhood Service Centers? Ballot drop boxes are open now until 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 3, and are accessible 24 hours a day. Select ballot drop sites are at the Central, Delridge, Ballard, University, Lake City, and Southeast Neighborhood Service Centers. Visit www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nsc for location information.



Bridge to Basics program at Neighborhood Payment and Information Services sites

By Margaret Ceseña, Manager of NPIS

The Neighborhood Payment and Information Services (NPIS) program is located at seven Neighborhood Service Centers and staffed by Customer Service Representatives. Serving as the face of city government in our neighborhoods, our mission is to provide residents one-stop access to resources of the City – from paying utility bills to purchasing a pet license.

Another way we provide service is our new partnership with United Way of King County and its Bridge to Basics program. This program helps people who are low income or struggling financially with income supports that can help them avoid crisis situations. Now through December 15, Bridge to Basics volunteers will be located at five NPIS sites to assess customer eligibility and help complete

applications for food stamps, Basic Health (low-cost health care), and utility rate assistance.

Here is the schedule:

Southeast Neighborhood Service Center,
Tuesdays, 3-5 pm

Delridge Neighborhood Service Center,
Wednesdays, 4-6 pm

Lake City Neighborhood Service Center,
Wednesdays, 10 am-12 noon

Central Neighborhood Service Center,
Thursdays, 4-6 pm and Saturdays, 10 am-12 noon

Ballard Neighborhood Service Center,
Thursdays, 10 am-12 noon

New online events calendar available on our website

Now you can post your neighborhood events and activities to the Department of Neighborhoods new events calendar on our website. Volunteer projects, work parties, meetings, festivities...any event that touches your neighborhood or community.

Visit our events page at www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/calendar, hit the link for "Submit an Event" on the upper left-hand column, read the "How to Submit..." information and policy guidelines, and complete the form. Once your event is submitted, it takes two to four days to have the submission approved and posted to the our website.

Not only will your event appear on the Department of Neighborhoods calendar, but will automatically appear on the City's online calendar which gets thousands of hits a week.



**Mayor's Customer
Service Bureau**

Seattle Works for You

The Customer Service Bureau will help you:

- Get Information
- Request Services
- Resolve Problems
- File a Complaint
- Provide Suggestions
- Give a Compliment
- Comment on an Issue
- Voice an Opinion

Web/Online Request Form: www.seattle.gov/customerservice



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TTY (206) 615-0476 FAX (206) 684-5529

Save the Date for the 16th Annual Neighbor Appreciation Day

Saturday, February 6, will mark Seattle's 16th annual celebration of Neighbor Appreciation Day. The celebration began in 1995, when Phinney Ridge activist Judith Wood suggested that the City designate "a special day to celebrate the goodness in those around us and to reach out and strengthen our bonds to each other." Mayor Norm Rice proclaimed the Saturday before Valentine's Day as Neighbor Appreciation Day and the observance has grown every year since.

Neighbor Appreciation Day is celebrated throughout Seattle. People and organizations organize block parties, open houses, award ceremonies, potluck dinners, and work parties to recognize and encourage caring neighbors.

By tradition, the Department of Neighborhoods holds an art contest for Seattle youth to express what they think it means to be good neighbors. The winning artwork adorns thousands of Neighbor Appreciation Day cards that are given away free so residents can share their appreciation to their neighbors.

If your organization plans to celebrate Neighbor Appreciation Day, contact Lois Maag at lois.maag@seattle.gov, and we'll help you include it on our events calendar. Stay tuned for more details on our website!



U.S. Mayors tour High Point Garden

By Bunly Yun, P-Patch Community Garden Coordinator

Mayor Nickels, along with nearly 20 mayors from around the country, visited High Point Community Garden and Market Garden as part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors meeting held in October. Bunly Yun, P-Patch Community Garden Coordinator, and ten High Point gardeners greeted the mayors, toured the garden and discussed the growing of local, organic food. Gardeners, along with their interpreters, answered questions about the 21 types of vegetables growing, the composting process and the farm stand the gardeners made available to the neighborhood. In addition, the visitors were impressed with the quality and quantity of vegetables that are part of their CSA (community supported agriculture) program.



The Department of Neighborhoods works to bring government closer to the residents of Seattle by engaging them in civic participation; helping them become empowered to make positive contributions to their communities; and by involving more of Seattle's underrepresented residents, including communities of color and immigrants, in civic discourse, processes, and opportunities.